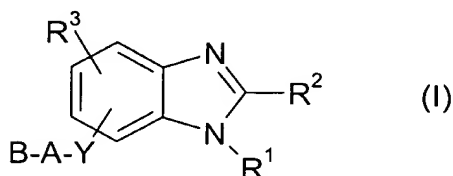


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to formula I



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof,

in which

R^1 means a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from ~~the group that consists~~ of N, S ~~or~~ and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I,

$C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$,
 $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$,

XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,

$XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$,

XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$,
 $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$,

XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 ,

SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$,

NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$,
 $XNR^4SO_2R^4$,

$XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way~~

~~that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R² means a monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₀ aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from ~~the group that consists of~~ N, S ~~or~~ and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I,
XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴,
XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'},
XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHOH,
XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴,
XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'},
NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R^{4'}, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, tetrahydro-
2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-
dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediyl-bisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R³ means one or two substituents which are independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen,
F, Cl, Br, I,
XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴,
XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'},
XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHOH,
XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴,
SO₂NR⁴R^{4'},
NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'},
XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}),

XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, ~~or~~ and R⁴,

wherein when two substituents R³, ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R⁴ and R^{4'}, independently of one another, mean C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-5 to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S and ~~or~~ O, atoms, C₆₋₁₀ aryl or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S ~~or~~ and O atoms, wherein aryl and heteroaryl groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group, and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has an N or O ring member, and wherein a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has an N and/or O ring member, and wherein one or two ring members which are each ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl;

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, mean C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₆ alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl or N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, ~~can optionally have~~ has an N or O ring member and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members which are each N or O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₆₋₁₀ aryl or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O,

~~whereby~~ wherein the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups ~~chains can be~~ are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, aryls or heteroaryls,

~~whereby~~ wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF₃, C₂F₅, OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NHC₁₋₃ alkyl, NHC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), COOH,

CONH₂, and COO C₁₋₃ alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~else can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, or

R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5-to 7-membered heterocyclic group, which ~~can~~ optionally ~~contain~~ contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and ~~can~~ be is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl;

A means C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, ~~can~~ optionally have has an N or O ring member, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally have has one or two ring members which are each N or O, ~~whereby~~ wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

~~whereby~~ wherein in the above-mentioned aliphatic ~~chains~~ groups, a carbon atom or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally replaced by O, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl, N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, and ~~whereby~~ wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from =O, OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NHC₁₋₃ alkyl, NHC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, and N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl);

B means COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R^{5'}, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR^{5'}), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), PO(NHR⁵)(NHR^{5'}), or tetrazolyl, in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A,

or the entire group Y-A-B is N(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}) or NHSO₂R⁴;

X means a bond, CH₂, (CH₂)₂, CH(CH₃), (CH₂)₃, CH(CH₂CH₃), CH(CH₃)CH₂, or CH₂CH(CH₃), and

Y means O, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴,

provided that if Y means NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴ or NSO₂R⁴, and either

a) ~~substituent~~ R^2 contains a nitrogen-containing, saturated heterocyclic group, wherein said this heterocyclic group is not substituted in the imine nitrogen with H, methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl,

or

b) ~~in optionally present groups~~ R^2 contains substituents $XNHR^4$ ~~or~~ and/or $XNR^4R^{4'}$ ~~of substituent~~ R^2 , in which R^4 and/or $R^{4'}$ ~~does are~~ not mean C_{1-4} alkyl,

~~that then~~ B does not mean $COOH$, SO_3H , PO_3H_2 or tetrazolyl ~~at the same time~~, and R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, mean C_{5-6} heteroaryl or phenyl, ~~if the latter,~~ independently of one another, which are unsubstituted, or are substituted ~~simply~~ with C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl, $O\ C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $O\ C_{1-4}$ perfluoroalkyl, $COOH$, $COO\ C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $CO\ C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $CONH_2$, $CONHR^4$, NO_2 , NH_2 , $NHCOR^4$, $NHSO_2R^4$, or with 1 or 2 halogen atoms selected ~~from the group~~ F, Cl, Br, and I, and

whereby the following compounds are excluded:

[(1,2-Diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]acetic acid methyl ester,

5-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,

4-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]butanoic acid ethyl ester,

5-[[1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-pentanoic acid methyl ester,

6-[[1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester,

5-[[1-(4-aminophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,

5-[[1-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,

5-[[1-[4-[(acetyl)amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester

5-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,

6-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester,

5-[[1-(3-aminophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,

5-[[1-[3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester, and

5-[[1-[3-[(acetyl)amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester.

2. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from the group that consists of N, S ~~or~~ and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,
 $XCOR^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$,
 $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , or R^4 ,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be they are optionally~~ linked to one another ~~in such a way~~ that they to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl or butane-1,4-diyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-10} aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from the group that consists of N, S ~~or~~ and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,
 $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOHR^4)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$,
 $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$,
 $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$,
 NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, and R^4 ,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be they are optionally~~ linked to one another ~~in such a way~~ that they to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ is one or two substituents, which are, independently of one another selected from: hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R⁴, XC(NO(COR⁴))R⁴, XCN, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R⁴, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴N⁴, XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R⁴, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, ~~or~~ and R⁴,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two substituents R³, ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be they are optionally~~ linked to one another ~~in such a way that they to~~ jointly form methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ and R⁴', independently of one another, are each CF₃, C₂F₅, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl), phenyl or 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S ~~or~~ and O ~~atoms~~, wherein the phenyl and heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from the ~~group that consists of~~ F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, and

in a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, a ring member ~~can be~~ is optionally an N or an O atom, and in a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members are optionally ~~can~~ in each case ~~be an~~ an N or O atom, ~~whereby wherein~~ ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁵ and R⁵', independently of one another, are each

C₁₋₆ alkyl, ~~whereby wherein~~ a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally exchanged for replaced by O, NH, NC₁₋₃ alkyl, or NC₁₋₃ alkanoyl;

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, ~~whereby wherein~~ in a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, a ring member ~~can be~~ is optionally an N or an O atom, and in a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members ~~can~~ are optionally in each case ~~be an~~ an N or O atom, ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

~~whereby~~ wherein the mentioned C₁₋₆ alkyl ~~part group can be~~ is optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, or

a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic compound with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected from N, S or and O,

~~whereby~~ wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl ~~parts~~ groups are, optionally, substituted with up to two substituents ~~that consist of~~ selected from CF₃, OH, and O C₁₋₃ alkyl, and the previously mentioned heteroaryl groups are, optionally, substituted with one or two substituents ~~that consist of~~ selected from F, Cl, CF₃, CH₃, C₂H₅, OCH₃, and OC₂H₅, or

R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic compound, which ~~can optionally contain~~ contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is unsubstituted or substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl.

7. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein A is C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), ~~whereby~~ wherein in a 5-membered cycloalkanediyl ring, a ring member ~~can be~~ is optionally an N or an O atom, or in a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members ~~can~~ are optionally in each case ~~be an~~ be an N or O atom, ~~whereby~~ wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, ~~whereby~~ wherein in the alkanediyl, alkenediyl, and alkinediyl groups ~~chains~~, a carbon atom or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally exchanged for O, NH, NC₁₋₃ alkyl, or NC₁₋₃ alkanoyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein B means COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵ or tetrazolyl, which in each case is bonded to a carbon atom of group A.

9. (Previously Presented) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein X means a bond or methylene.

10. (Previously Presented) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein Y means O.

11. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from:

[(1,2-Diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]acetic acid isopropyl ester
3-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]propanoic acid methyl ester
2-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]propanoic acid methyl ester
4-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]butanoic acid isopropyl ester
5-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]pentanoic acid isopropyl ester
6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
N-methoxy-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
N-(phenylmethoxy)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
N-hydroxy-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
7-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]heptanoic acid methyl ester
6-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
ester
6-[[2-phenyl-1-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
6-[[2-phenyl-1-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
6-[[1-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
ester
6-[[1-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
ester
6-[[1-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid
6-[[1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
ester
6-[[1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
ester

6-[[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-(3-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-[3,4-(methylenedioxy)phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-[3,4-(methylenedioxy)phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid

6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid

6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-[4-(N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-[4-(N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid

6-[[1-phenyl-2-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[2-(4-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-(4-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1-phenyl-2-(4-pyridinyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-[[4-(bromophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-[[4-(chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[4-(chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-[[3-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-[[4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-[[4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-[[4-(acetylamino)phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-[[bis(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[1,2-diphenyl-5-[(propylsulfonyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

2-[2-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]ethoxy]acetic acid methyl ester

3-[2-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]ethoxy]propanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid ethyl ester

6-[[4-acetyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-phenyl-1-[4-(thiomethyl)phenyl]-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-phenyl-1-[4-(thiomethyl)phenyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

4-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]butanoic acid methyl ester

N-(phenylmethoxy)-6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-hexanamide

N,N-dimethyl-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide

N-isopropyl-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]-1-pyrrolidin-1-ylhexan-1-one
 5-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[4-(acetyloxy)-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[4-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[4-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid, ~~or~~ and
 6-[[7-methyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester.

12. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from:

6-[[2-Phenyl-1-(3-pyridyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-phenyl-1-(3-pyridyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-phenyl-1-(4-pyridyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-(4-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-phenyl-2-(benzothien-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-phenyl-2-(benzothien-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid
 6-[[5-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester
 6-[[5-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid

6-[[5-methoxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid isopropyl ester

6-[[5-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-methoxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

4-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]butanoic acid methyl ester

5-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester

5-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[[(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[5-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]methylamino]-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(indan-5-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-(indan-5-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid

6-[[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

6-[[1-phenyl-2-(3-pyridinyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide

N-isobutoxy-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide

N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-6-[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-hexanamide

N-isobutoxy-6-[2-phenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-(2-methoxyethyl)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-isobutyl-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]-1-morpholin-1-ylhexan-1-one
 N,N-di(-2-methoxyethyl)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-isopentyl-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-(pyridin-2-yl)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-(pyridin-3-yl)-6-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]hexanamide
 N-isopropyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N,N-dimethyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N,N-diethyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-isobutyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-cyclopropyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-cyclobutyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-tert-butyl-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 (R)-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]1-(2-methoxymethyl)-pyrrolidin-1-ylhexan-1-one
 N-(3-imidazol-1-yl-propyl)-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-(2-pyridin-2-ylethyl)-6-[[1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanamide
 N-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-[[1-(indan-5-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]heptanamide
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(3-pyridyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(2-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(3-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[2-(3-indolyl)-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(2-furyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester
 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(3-furyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester

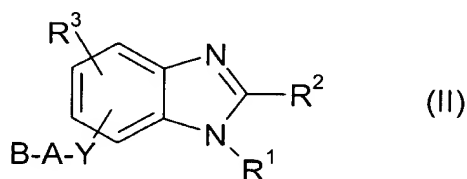
6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(5-methyl-2-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester ~~or~~ and

6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-(3-methyl-2-thienyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester.

13. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound according to claim 1 with a pharmaceutical vehicle or diluent.

14. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds according to claim 1 and one or more vehicles or diluents.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from ~~a disease associated with microglia activation~~ chronic inflammation comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a benzimidazole compound of formula II



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof,

in which

R¹ means a monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₂ aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, ~~whereby~~ wherein when said aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, C(NH)NH₂, C(NH)NHR⁴, C(NH)NR⁴R^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NH₂, C(NR⁴)NHR^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NR⁴R^{4'}, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can~~ they are optionally be linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R² means a monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₀ aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, C(NH)NH₂, C(NH)NHR⁴, C(NH)NR⁴R^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NH₂, C(NR⁴)NHR^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NR⁴R^{4'}, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴,

XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴,

~~whereby~~ wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in ortho-position to one another, can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediyl-bisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R³ stands for one or two substituents which are each independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R⁴, XC(NO(COR⁴))R⁴, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R⁴, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R⁴, XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R⁴), XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, or 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, ~~or~~ and R⁴,

wherein when two substituents R³, ~~if they are in ortho-position to one another, can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R⁴ and R⁴, independently of one another, mean C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl), C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₆₋₁₀ aryl, ~~C₁₋₃ alkyl-5 to 10-membered~~ C₁₋₃ alkyl-5 to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S ~~or~~ and O ~~atoms~~, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4

heteroatoms selected from N, S or and O atoms, wherein the C₆₋₁₀ aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~else can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has an N or O ring member, and wherein a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has one or two ring members selected ~~have~~ from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, mean hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl or N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has an N or O ring member and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₆₋₁₀ aryl or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, ~~whereby wherein~~ the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups ~~chains can be~~ are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, aryls or heteroaryl,

~~whereby wherein~~ all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF₃, C₂F₅, OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), COOH, CONH₂, and COO C₁₋₃ alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃,

C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅ or ~~else can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo, or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, or

R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5-to 7-membered group, which ~~can~~ optionally ~~contain~~ contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl,

A means C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), (C₀₋₅ alkanediylarylene-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-heteroarylene-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl),

wherein the aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

wherein in the mentioned aliphatic groups ~~chains~~, one or two carbon atoms ~~can~~ are each optionally ~~be~~ replaced by ~~for~~ O, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴,

and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from F, OH, OR⁴, OCOR⁴, =O, NH₂, NR⁴R^{4'}, NHCOR⁴, NHCOOR⁴, NHCONHR⁴, NHSO₂R⁴ SH, and SR⁴,

B means hydrogen, OH, OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COR⁵, C(NOH)R⁵, C(NOR⁵)R^{5'}, C(NO(COR⁵))R^{5'}, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R^{5'}, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR^{5'}), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), PO(NHR⁵)(NHR^{5'}), or tetrazolyl, respectively each bonded to a carbon atom of group A,

or the entire group Y-A-B is N(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}) or NHSO₂R⁴,

X means a bond, CH₂, (CH₂)₂, CH(CH₃), (CH₂)₃, CH(CH₂CH₃), CH(CH₃)CH₂, or CH₂CH(CH₃), and

Y means a bond, O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or ~~NSO₂R⁴~~
NSO₂R⁴.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R¹ means a monocyclic or bicyclic aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from ~~the group that consists of~~ N, S and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XCN, COOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, and or R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they to~~ jointly form methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein,

R^2 means a monocyclic or bicyclic aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein said aryl group or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NO₂)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, or R⁴,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl or, butane-1,4-diyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R^3 stands for one or two substituents, which independently of one another, each mean:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NO₂)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, or R⁴,

wherein when two substituents R^3 , ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl or, butane-1,4-diyl.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R^4 and $R^{4'}$, independently of one another, mean CF₃, C₂F₅, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl), C₁₋₃ alkylaryl, C₁₋₃ alkylheteroaryl, monocyclic aryl or 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S or

and O atoms, wherein ~~said~~ the aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~else can optionally~~ carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, and ~~in addition wherein~~ a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, ~~can be~~ are optionally C₁₋₆ alkyl wherein a carbon atom ~~can is~~ optionally ~~be~~ replaced by O, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl, N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, wherein the mentioned C₁₋₆ alkyl ~~part can~~ group is optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls or ~~else~~ a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O,

wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl ~~parts groups~~ can be are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF₃, OH, and O C₁₋₃ alkyl, and the previously mentioned heteroaryl groups ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, CF₃, CH₃, C₂H₅, OCH₃, and OC₂H₅,

or R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group which optionally contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

A means C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-heteroarylene-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), wherein if when a heteroaryl group is present it is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, and ~~in addition~~ wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring

members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

wherein in aliphatic ~~chains~~ groups one or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally replaced by O, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl, N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, or NSO₂ C₁₋₃ alkyl, and ~~whereby~~ wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups ~~parts can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two F atoms or by one of the substituents selected from OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, O C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, =O, NH₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl) (C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), NHCOO C₁₋₃ alkyl, NHCONH C₁₋₃ alkyl, NHSO₂ C₁₋₃ alkyl, SH, and S C₁₋₃ alkyl.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein

B means hydrogen, OH, OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, or tetrazolyl, in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein

X means a bond or CH₂.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein

Y means a bond, O, S, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴ or NSO₂R⁴.

25. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.

27. (Currently Amended) A benzimidazole compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is a monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₂ aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from ~~the group that consists of~~

N, S ~~or~~ and O, ~~whereby wherein~~ the mentioned aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XCN,
XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH,
CONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, or R⁴,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two of said ~~the~~ substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if~~ they are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R² is a monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₀ aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from ~~the group that consists of~~ N, S ~~or~~ and O, ~~whereby wherein~~ the mentioned-aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴,
XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴,
XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴,
XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNHR⁴,
XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R^{4'}, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, ~~and~~ or R⁴,

~~whereby wherein when~~ two of said ~~the~~ substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if~~ they are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R³ is one or two substituents, which are each, independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴,
XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XSR⁴,
XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴,
XNR⁴N^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R^{4'},
XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, ~~or~~ and R⁴,

~~whereby~~ wherein when two substituents R^3 , ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they to jointly~~ form ~~can be~~ methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^4 and $R^{4'}$, independently of one another, are each CF_3 , C_2F_5 , C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl,

C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, (C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl), phenyl or 5- to 6- membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S ~~or~~ and O atoms, wherein said phenyl and heteroaryl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , and

wherein in a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, a ring member ~~can~~ is optionally ~~be~~ an N or an O atom, and in a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members ~~can~~ in each case optionally ~~be~~ are an N or O atom, ~~whereby~~ wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl;

R^5 and $R^{5'}$, independently of one another, are each

C_{1-6} alkyl, ~~whereby~~ wherein a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally exchanged for O, NH, NC_{1-3} alkyl, or NC_{1-3} alkanoyl,

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, wherein in a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, a ring member ~~can~~ is optionally ~~be~~ an N or an O atom, and in a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members ~~can~~ is in each case optionally ~~be~~ N or O atom, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl, or

a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic compound with 1-2 heteroatoms select from N, S ~~or~~ and O, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, CF_3 , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , OCH_3 , and OC_2H_5 , or

R^5 and $R^{5'}$, together with the nitrogen atom, form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group which ~~can optionally contain~~ contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy- C_{0-2} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl;

A is C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl),

wherein in a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, a ring member ~~can~~ is optionally ~~be~~ an N or an O atom, or in a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, one or two ring members ~~can~~ are in each case optionally ~~be~~ N or O atom, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

wherein in the alkanediyl, alkenediyl, and alkinediyl groups ~~chains~~ a carbon atom or two carbon atoms ~~can~~ are optionally each ~~be~~ replaced by O, NH, NC₁₋₃ alkyl, or NC₁₋₃ alkanoyl;

B is COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵ or tetrazolyl, which in each case is bonded to a carbon atom of group A;

X is a bond or methylene; and

Y is O.

28. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinaxolinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, C(NH)NH₂, C(NH)NHR⁴, C(NH)NR⁴R^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NH₂, C(NR⁴)NHR^{4'}, C(NR⁴)NR⁴R^{4'}, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴

XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R^{4'}, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R² is phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinaxolinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, C(NO₂)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)SO₂R^{4'}, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediyl-bisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R⁴ and R^{4'}, independently of one another, mean C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-5 to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S or O atoms, or

phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl,

pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, and

wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has an N or O ring member, and wherein a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has N and/or O ring members, and wherein one or two ring members which are each ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl; and

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, mean C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₆ alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl or N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring, ~~can optionally have~~ has an N or O ring member and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members which are each N and/or O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl,

~~whereby wherein~~ the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups ~~chains can be~~ are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, aryls or heteroaryl,

~~whereby wherein~~ all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF₃, C₂F₅, OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkyl, NH C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), COOH, CONH₂, and COO C₁₋₃ alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, or ~~else can~~ optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group,

or R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5-to 7-membered heterocyclic group, which ~~can~~ optionally ~~contain~~ contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and ~~can~~ be is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R¹ is a monocyclic or bicyclic aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from the group ~~that consists of~~ N, S and O, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XCN, COOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, and R⁴,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they to~~ jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R² means a monocyclic or bicyclic aryl group or a monocyclic or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein said aryl group or heteroaryl group ~~can be~~ is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNH₂SO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, ~~or~~ and R⁴,

~~whereby~~ wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl or heteroaryl group, ~~if they are in~~ ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they to~~ jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl or, butane-1,4-diyl;

R^3 is one or two substituents, which independently of one another, each mean: hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, or R^4 ,

wherein when two substituents R^3 , ~~if they~~ are in ortho-position to one another, ~~can be~~ they are optionally linked to one another ~~in such a way that they~~ to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or, butane-1,4-diyl;

R^4 and R^4 , independently of one another, mean CF_3 , C_2F_5 , C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, (C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl), C_{1-3} alkylaryl, C_{1-3} alkylheteroaryl, monocyclic aryl or 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S ~~or~~ and O atoms, wherein said the aryl and heteroaryl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 or ~~else~~ can optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group, and ~~in addition~~ wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl;

R^5 and R^5 , independently of one another, ~~can be~~ are C_{1-6} alkyl wherein a carbon atom ~~can~~ is optionally ~~be~~ replaced by O, NH, N C_{1-3} alkyl, N C_{1-3} alkanoyl, or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can optionally have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl, wherein the mentioned C_{1-6} alkyl ~~part~~ group ~~can~~ is optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls or ~~else~~ a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O,

wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl ~~parts~~ groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , OH, and O C_{1-3} alkyl, and the previously mentioned heteroaryl groups ~~can~~ are optionally ~~be~~ substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, CF_3 , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , OCH_3 , and OC_2H_5 , or

R⁵ and R^{5'} together with the nitrogen atom form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group which optionally contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₀₋₂ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl;

A means C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-heteroarylene-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), wherein if when a heteroaryl group is present it is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅, and ~~in addition~~ wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring ~~can~~ optionally ~~have~~ has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally ~~can be~~ are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

wherein in aliphatic groups ~~chains~~ one or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally replaced by O, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl, N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, or NSO₂ C₁₋₃ alkyl, and ~~whereby~~ wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl ~~parts~~ groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two F atoms or by one of the substituents selected from OH, O C₁₋₃ alkyl, O C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, =O, NH₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, NH C₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N (C₁₋₃ alkyl) (C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), NHCOO C₁₋₃ alkyl, NHCONH C₁₋₃ alkyl, NHSO₂ C₁₋₃ alkyl, SH, and S C₁₋₃ alkyl;

B means hydrogen, OH, OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, or tetrazolyl, in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A;

X means a bond or CH₂; and

Y means a bond, O, S, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴ or NSO₂R⁴.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein in R¹, R², R⁴, R^{4'}, R⁵ and R^{5'}, said aryl groups are substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, or fluorenyl, and said heteroaryl group are substituted or unsubstituted pyrrolyl,

thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinaxolinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl.

31. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group which is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, $C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$, $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHOSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ;

R^2 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-10} aryl group which is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHOSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ;

R^3 is one or two substituents which are independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R^{4'}, XC(NO(COR⁴))R^{4'}, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONHR⁴, XCONR⁴R^{4'}, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNHSO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, ~~or~~ and R⁴;

R⁴ and R^{4'}, independently of one another, are each C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₆₋₁₀ aryl, or C₆₋₁₀ aryl, wherein aryl groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅,

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, are each

C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₆ alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom ~~can be~~ are is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl or N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, or

C₆₋₁₀ aryl;

A is C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl),

wherein in the alkanediyl, alkenediyl, and alkinediyl groups ~~chains~~, a carbon atom or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally replaced by O, NH, NC₁₋₃ alkyl, or NC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, and wherein alkanediyl and cycloalkanediyl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from =O, OH, OC₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NHC₁₋₃ alkyl, NHC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, and N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl); and

B is COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R^{5'}, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR^{5'}), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), or PO(NHR⁵)(NHR^{5'}), in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A, or

the entire group Y-A-B is $N(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$ or $NHSO_2R^4$.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein

R^1 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group which is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, $C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$, $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ;

R^2 is a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-10} aryl group which is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ;

R^3 is one or two substituents which are independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$,

XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R^{4'}, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R^{4'}, XNH₂SO₂R⁴, XNR⁴SO₂R^{4'}, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}), XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, ~~or~~ and R⁴;

R⁴ and R^{4'}, independently of one another, are each C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl-C₆₋₁₀ aryl, or C₆₋₁₀ aryl, wherein aryl groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅,

R⁵ and R^{5'}, independently of one another, are each

C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₆ alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom ~~can be~~ is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, N C₁₋₃ alkyl or N C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₀₋₃ alkyl, or

C₆₋₁₀ aryl;

A is C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, or (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl),

wherein in the alkanediyl, alkenediyl, and alkinediyl groups ~~chains~~, a carbon atom or two carbon atoms ~~can be~~ are optionally replaced by O, NH, NC₁₋₃ alkyl, or NC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, and wherein alkanediyl and cycloalkanediyl groups ~~can be~~ are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from =O, OH, OC₁₋₃ alkyl, NH₂, NHC₁₋₃ alkyl, NHC₁₋₃ alkanoyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, and N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl); and

B is COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R^{5'}, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR^{5'}), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), or PO(NHR⁵)(NHR^{5'}), in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A, or

the entire group Y-A-B is N(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}) or NH₂SO₂R⁴.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said patient is suffering from ~~AIDS-dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, Down's syndrome, diffuse Lewy body's disease, Huntington's disease, leukoencephalopathy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Pick's disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, temporary lobe-epilepsy or tumors.~~ neuro inflammation.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said patient is suffering from a stroke.

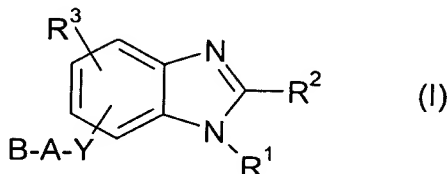
35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.

37. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said patient is suffering from neurohal dysfunction or degeneration.

38. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said patient is suffering from neurohal Alzheimer's disease.

39. (New) A benzimidazole compound according to formula I



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof,

in which

R^1 means a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group, wherein said aryl is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I,

$C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$,
 $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$,

XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,

$XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$,

XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$,
 $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$,

XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 ,

SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$,

NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNH SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$,
 $XNR^4SO_2R^4$,

$XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl group are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^2 means a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-10} aryl group, wherein said aryl is unsubstituted or is substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I,
 XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,
 $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOHR^4)$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$,
 $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$,
 $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$,
 XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$,
 NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, tetrahydro-
2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-
dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl group are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediyl-bisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^3 means one or two substituents which are independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen,
F, Cl, Br, I,
 XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$,
 $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOHR^4)$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$,
 XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$,
 $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 ,
 $SO_2NR^4R^4$,
 NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 ,
 $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$,
 $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-
dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two substituents R^3 are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^4 and $R^{4'}$, independently of one another, mean C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{6-10} aryl, wherein aryl groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group,

R^5 and $R^{5'}$, independently of one another, mean C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO_2 , NH, N C_{1-3} alkyl or N C_{1-3} alkanoyl,

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, or

C_{6-10} aryl, wherein the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, or aryls,

wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , C_2F_5 , OH, O C_{1-3} alkyl, NH_2 , NHC_{1-3} alkyl, NHC_{1-3} alkanoyl, $N(C_{1-3} \text{ alkyl})_2$, $N(C_{1-3} \text{ alkyl})(C_{1-3} \text{ alkanoyl})$, COOH, $CONH_2$, and COO C_{1-3} alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group,

A means C_{1-10} alkanediyl, C_{2-10} alkenediyl, C_{2-10} alkinediyl, or (C_{0-5} alkanediyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkanediyl- C_{0-5} alkanediyl),

wherein in the above-mentioned aliphatic groups, a carbon atom or two carbon atoms are optionally replaced by O, NH, N C_{1-3} alkyl, N C_{1-3} alkanoyl, and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from =O, OH, O C_{1-3} alkyl, NH_2 , NHC_{1-3} alkyl, NHC_{1-3} alkanoyl, $N(C_{1-3} \text{ alkyl})_2$, and $N(C_{1-3} \text{ alkyl})(C_{1-3} \text{ alkanoyl})$,

B means COOH, $COOR^5$, $CONH_2$, $CONHNH_2$, $CONHR^5$, $CONR^5R^{5'}$, $CONHOH$, $CONHOR^5$, SO_3H , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^5 , $SO_2NR^5R^{5'}$, PO_3H , $PO(OH)(OR^5)$, $PO(OR^5)(OR^5)$, $PO(OH)(NHR^5)$, $PO(NHR^5)(NHR^5)$, or tetrazolyl, in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A,

or the entire group Y-A-B is $N(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^{4'})$ or $NHSO_2R^4$;

X means a bond, CH₂, (CH₂)₂, CH(CH₃), (CH₂)₃, CH(CH₂CH₃), CH(CH₃)CH₂, or CH₂CH(CH₃), and

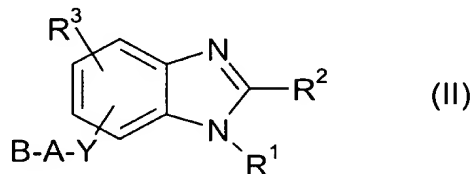
Y means O, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴,
provided that Y means NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴ or NSO₂R⁴, and
R² contains substituents XNHR⁴ and/or XNR⁴R^{4'}, in which R⁴ and/or R^{4'} are not C₁₋₄ alkyl,

then B does not mean COOH, SO₃H, PO₃H₂ or tetrazolyl, and R¹ and R² are phenyl, which is unsubstituted, or is substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, O C₁₋₆ alkyl, O C₁₋₄ perfluoroalkyl, COOH, COO C₁₋₆ alkyl, CO C₁₋₆ alkyl, CONH₂, CONHR⁴, NO₂, NH₂, NHCOR⁴, NHSO₂R⁴, or with 1 or 2 halogen atoms selected from F, Cl, Br, and I, and

whereby the following compounds are excluded:

[(1,2-Diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]acetic acid methyl ester,
5-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,
4-[(1,2-diphenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)oxy]butanoic acid ethyl ester,
5-[[1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]-pentanoic acid methyl ester,
6-[[1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester,
5-[[1-(4-aminophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,
5-[[1-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,
5-[[1-[4-[(acetyl)amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester
5-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,
6-[[1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]hexanoic acid methyl ester,
5-[[1-(3-aminophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester,
5-[[1-[3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester, and
5-[[1-[3-[(acetyl)amino]phenyl]-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy]pentanoic acid methyl ester.

40. (New) A method for treating a patient suffering from a disease associated with microglia activation comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a benzimidazole compound of formula II



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof,

in which

R^1 means a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-12} aryl group, wherein when said aryl group is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, $C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$, $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl group are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediylbisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^2 means a monocyclic or bicyclic C_{6-10} aryl group, wherein said aryl group is optionally substituted with up to three of the following substituents, independently of one another selected from:

F, Cl, Br, I, $C(NH)NH_2$, $C(NH)NHR^4$, $C(NH)NR^4R^4$, $C(NR^4)NH_2$, $C(NR^4)NHR^4$, $C(NR^4)NR^4R^4$, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNH SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two of said substituents for the aryl group are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediyl-bisoxo, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^3 stands for one or two substituents which are each independently of one another selected from:

hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, XOH , XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNH SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, or 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R^4 ,

wherein when two substituents R^3 are in ortho-position to one another, they are optionally linked to one another to jointly form methanediylbisoxy, ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy, propane-1,3-diyl, or butane-1,4-diyl;

R^4 and $R^{4'}$, independently of one another, mean C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, (C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkyl), C_{1-3} alkyl- C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{6-10} aryl, wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group,

R^5 and $R^{5'}$, independently of one another, mean hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, wherein in each case a carbon atom is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO_2 , NH, N C_{1-3} alkyl or N C_{1-3} alkanoyl,

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, or

C_{6-10} aryl,

wherein the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls or aryls,

wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , C_2F_5 , OH, O C_{1-3} alkyl, NH_2 , NH C_{1-3} alkyl, NH C_{1-3} alkanoyl, N (C_{1-3} alkyl) $_2$, N(C_{1-3} alkyl)(C_{1-3} alkanoyl), COOH, $CONH_2$, and COO C_{1-3} alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy, or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group,

A means C₁₋₁₀ alkanediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkenediyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkinediyl, (C₀₋₅ alkanediyl-C₃₋₇ cycloalkanediyl-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl), or (C₀₋₅ alkanediylarylene-C₀₋₅ alkanediyl),

wherein the aryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH₃, C₂H₅, NO₂, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, CF₃, and C₂F₅,

wherein in the mentioned aliphatic groups, one or two carbon atoms are each optionally replaced by O, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴,

and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from F, OH, OR⁴, OCOR⁴, =O, NH₂, NR⁴R^{4'}, NHCOR⁴, NHCOOR⁴, NHCONHR⁴, NHSO₂R⁴ SH, and SR⁴,

B means hydrogen, OH, OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COR⁵, C(NOHR⁵), C(NOR⁵)R^{5'}, C(NO(COR⁵))R^{5'}, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R^{5'}, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R^{5'}, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR^{5'}), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), PO(NHR⁵)(NHR^{5'}), or tetrazolyl, each bonded to a carbon atom of group A,

or the entire group Y-A-B is N(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R^{4'}) or NHSO₂R⁴,

X means a bond, CH₂, (CH₂)₂, CH(CH₃), (CH₂)₃, CH(CH₂CH₃), CH(CH₃)CH₂, or CH₂CH(CH₃), and

Y means a bond, O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴.

41. (New) A benzimidazole compound according to formula I of claim 1, wherein all heterocyclic groups are selected from pyridinyl, pyridyl, thienyl, imidazol, indonyl, furyl, pyrrolidin, morpholin, piperidin, and piperazine.

42. (New) A method for treating a patient suffering from a disease associated with microglia activation according to claim 15, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a benzimidazole compound of formula II wherein all heterocyclic groups are selected from pyridinyl, pyridyl, thienyl, imidazol, indonyl, furyl, pyrrolidin, morpholin, piperidin, and piperazine.